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28 Feb 1980, DoDD 5200.10; AGO D/A ltr, 29 Aug 1980	

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (16 Apr 68) FOR OT RD 68X009

25 April 1968

AD389692

SUBJECT: Combat After Action Report - Operation AKRON V, 1st Brigade,
9th Infantry Division, Period 11-21 January 1968 (U)

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appro-
priate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current
operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

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Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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as

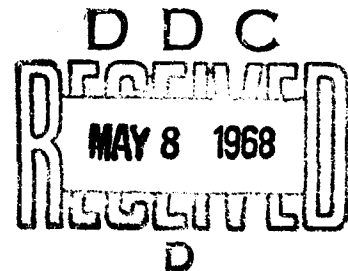
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE
9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96371

AVDE-BA-T

5 February 1968

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Actions Report (MACV/BCS/J3/J2)

THRU: Command Channels

TO: Commanding General
US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
ATTN: J3
APO 96243

1. (U) Name of the Operation: AKRON V
2. (U) Dates of Operation: 110650H January 1968 to 211400H January 1968.
3. (C) Location: Southeast of Long Thanh Hamlet and Binh Son rubber plantation east of Hwy 15 and west of Hwy 2 in Long Thanh District of Bien Hoa Province; south of east-west grid line 92; east of north-south grid line 23; north of east-west grid line 80; west of north-south grid line 37. Reference: Maps, Vietnam, 1:50,000 sheets 6430 III & IV.
4. (C) General: During the period 110650H Jan 1968 to 211400H Jan 68, Operation AKRON V was conducted by the FIRST BRIGADE, in close coordination and cooperation with the 1st ATF, in southeastern Long Thanh district of Bien Hoa Province to locate and destroy elements of the 274th VC main force regiment. The 2-47th Inf (M), 2-39th Inf, Co A, 4-39th Inf and Troop A, 3-5th Cav were maneuver units under the operational control of the 1st Brigade.
5. (C) Reporting Officer:
 - a. 1st Bde, 9th Inf Div: Colonel Harry O. Williams
 - b. Subordinate maneuver and combat support unit commanders:
 - (1) 2-47th Inf (M): LTC John B. Tower
 - (2) 2-39th Inf: LTC Harold P. Mueller
 - (3) 1-11th Arty Bn: LTC Donald W. Farmer
6. (C) Task Organization:

TF 2-39th Inf

2-39th Inf

B/2-47th Inf (M)

1st Plat, Co A, 15th Engr (DS)

1-11th Arty Bn (DS)

TF 2-47th Inf (M)

2-47th Inf (M) (-Co B)

TEAM 3-5th Cav

A/3-5th Cav

A/4-39th Inf (-)

3rd Plat, Co A, 15th Engr (DS)

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7. Supporting Forces:

a. Artillery: The following Direct Support/General Support Reinforcing units supported Brigade Operations from Fire Support Bases within the Brigade TAOR.

(1) 1st Bn, 11th Arty.

(a) A Btry, 1-11th Arty (105T) 11 Jan 68 - 18 Jan 68.

(b) B Btry, 1-11th Arty (105T).

(c) C Btry, 1-11th Arty (105T) 19 Jan 68 - 21 Jan 68.

(2) Rounds Expended.

(a) Observed:

1 High Explosive: 5,434.

2 White Phosphorus: 363.

3 Illumination: 854.

4 Propaganda: 17.

(b) Unobserved (H & I's):

1 High Explosive: 268.

2 White Phosphorus: 18.

3 Illumination: 0.

4 Propaganda: 9.

(c) Unobserved Targets:

1 High Explosive: 754.

2 White Phosphorus: 130.

(d) Unobserved Propaganda: 27.

(3) Artillery ammunition expenditures by type.

(a) High Explosive: 6456.

(b) White Phosphorus: 511.

(c) Illumination: 854.

(d) Propaganda: 53.

(4) Total rounds expended: 7,874.

b. Army Aviation

(1) Organic Aviation:	Sorties	439
	PAX	461
	Hours	103
	Cargo	25 Tons

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(2) Non-organic Aviation:

(a) There were 4 airmobile daylight assaults utilizing 132 sorties of UH1D aircraft to transport 790 passengers.

(b) There were 2 airmobile daylight extractions utilizing 73 sorties of UH1D aircraft to transport 438 passengers.

(c) There was 1 airmobile night insertion utilizing 5 sorties of UH1D aircraft to transport 30 passengers.

(d) There was 1 airmobile night extraction utilizing 5 sorties of UH1D aircraft to transport 30 passengers.

(e) There were 2 daylight airmobile moves utilizing 11 sorties of CH47 aircraft to move 128 passengers and 28 tons of equipment.

(f) Two UH1D aircraft were used daily for Command and Control and resupply.

c. Close Air Support

(1) Both preplanned and immediate air strikes were employed as follows:

(a) Preplanned.

1	Strikes requested	45
2	Strikes approved	31
3	Strikes diverted from 1st Bde	8
4	Strikes diverted to 1st Bde	1
5	Total strikes delivered	24
6	Type aircraft used	
a	F100	50
b	F4C	8
c	A37	14
7	Ordnance	
a	250 GP Bomb	24
b	500 GP Bomb	119
c	750 GP Bomb	59
d	750 lb NAPALM	30
e	Rockets	97
f	20mm	4000 rds

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8 Targets Hit

a VC Base Camp	11
b Troop in contact	6
c LZ Preparation	1
d VC Bunker Complex	1

(b) Immediate

1 Number requested	7
2 Number approved	6
3 Number Diverted to 1st Bde	1

(2) Total number of airstrikes flown 30
and delivered

8. Intelligence:**a. Preoperational Intelligence Information**

(1) Elements of the 1st and 2d Bn of the 274th VC Regt are believed dispersed in the area of operation; it is possible some elements of the 2d Bn are located vic YS1179. The 3rd Bn is unlocated but probably south of Rt 1. LRRP on 1 Dec 67 reported an occupied base camp center of mass vic YS292835. On 8 Dec 67 vic YS308835, LRRP engaged a VC squad dressed in black trousers and light colored shirts armed with AK-47's. A LRRP engaged an unknown size VC force vic YS297832 on 2 Jan 68. Analysis of available intelligence indicate the VC are probably company/platoon locations with center of masses vic YS318845; YS285865; YS270895. (This follows the pattern indicated company locations are separated approximately 150 to 250 meters apart and 2 to 4 kilometers between battalions and regimental Headquarters. II FFORCEV PERINREP 46).

(2) Strengths and Weaknesses:

(a) The 274th Regt is strengthened by its knowledge of the terrain and by its complete control of the hinter land.

(b) The VC are able to disperse their installations and personnel widely because of the dense concealment offered by dense forested areas, yet concentrate rapidly on a well developed trail system to accomplish a mission.

(c) However, the VC are vulnerable to massive allied fire power. Order of Battle research indicates that the estimated strength of the 1st Bn, 274th VC Regt is 300. According to PW's captured by the FMR, the strength of the 1st Bn, 274th Regt is approximately 150. If the regiment has been in the Hat Dich since August, malaria has probably weakened a high percentage of personnel. The rigors of jungle living are not generous and morale is probably low, making the enemy vulnerable to an aggressive PSYOPS Program.

b. Enemy Capabilities:**(1) The enemy can:**

(a) Attack friendly forces entering the area with elements of 2 battalions supported by the appropriate share of Regimental Artillery and 81/82mm mortars.

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(b) Reinforce within 24 - 36 hours with the D445 Bn and 3rd Bn, 274th Regt.

(c) Defend critical base areas with available forces.

(d) Avoid contact with friendly units yet remain in the area of operation.

(e) Attempt to withdraw from the area of operations.

(2) Analysis and Discussion:

(a) Attack: with forces available is unlikely because the concentration of force necessary to attack would present a lucrative target to artillery and airstrikes. An attack is unlikely to occur unless friendly forces present a target of opportunity in a vulnerable location: ie, an isolated company/platoon position. The attack would probably commence between 2400H and 0200H as a night assault against a perimeter.

(b) Reinforce: Historically, reinforcement of engaged units with other VC forces in the area is unlikely and is not practiced.

(c) Defense: Other than delay or harassment is not likely because of the vulnerability to massed artillery fires and close airstrikes. If trapped or threatened by encirclement the VC will attempt to break out by night assault between 2400 and 0300H.

(d) Withdraw: to the east or northeast.

c. Conclusions: The VC will use harassing attacks, mines and booby traps to delay reconnaissance in force operations and avoid significant contact with US units in the area.

d. Weather and Terrain: During the operation, weather had no significant impact on military operations. Terrain hampered friendly movement and made maneuverability difficult. The trails cleared by the engineers throughout the area, alleviated the situation considerably, especially for mechanized and cavalry units.

e. Significant Events

(1) 110850 A/2-47 vic YS240954, destroyed 1 homemade mine rigged for either command or pressure detonation.

(2) 110905 A/2-47 vic YS230654, APC detonated 1 pressure type mine, consisting of 4 x 81mm mortar rounds. Only one round detonated and the remaining 3 were destroyed in place. There were no casualties or damage.

(3) 111100 2-39, moving into FSB NAIL vic YS272806, received 1 round RPG fire. Fire was returned with SA fire. Negative US casualties, area was searched without results.

(4) 111207 B/2-39, vic YS280837, made contact with estimated 12 VC. SA and AW was exchanged; VC broke contact at 1213H and withdrew east. Results: 1 US WIA (dust off complete at 1350 hrs). VC losses unknown.

(5) 111230 C/2-47 vic YS 244638, destroyed 3 x 81mm mortar rounds, possibly rigged as booby traps.

(6) 111300 B/2-47 vic YS 297817, destroyed 5 x 82mm mortar rds rigged as land mines.

(7) 111437 B/2-39 vic YS 278836, destroyed 1 bunker approx 20 days old and destroyed 1 latrine.

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(8) 111505 A/2-47 found 3 spider holes approx 18" wide and 3½' deep. Also found 20 meters of trench. All were old and caved in. Found vic YS2508876.

(9) 111550 B/2-39 vic YS230838, found a well used trail running east to west. Searched area without results.

(10) 111605 B/2-39 vic YS287840, received 20 rounds SA fire from estimated 5-6 VC. Fire was returned and VC broke contact at 1607H. Results: 2 US KIA (one required dust off; complete at 1731H). VC losses unknown.

(11) 112000 C/2-47 vic YS277870, received SA fire from estimated 4 VC. Returned fire and VC broke contact at 2003H, and withdrew south. There was 1 US KIA (slight) and VC losses unknown.

(12) 122130 B/2-39 vic YS282838, received estimated 40 rounds unknown caliber mortar fire and ground attack from an unknown number of VC. Artillery, LFT, and Spooky supported. Mortars ceased at 2234H and were receiving SA and ground attack. VC broke contact at 0010H. At 0248H began receiving SA fire and ground attack from all sides. Artillery and Spooky supported. VC broke contact at 0610H. Results: 46 US KIA of which 31 required dust off, 2 Scout dogs killed.

(13) 120900 2-39 report B/2-47 vic YS279837, destroyed 4 bunkers, and evacuated 500 lbs of rice.

(14) 120910 2-39 report B/2-47 vic YS299839, found a battalion size base camp consisting of 55 bunkers with overhead cover. Also found a VC aid station containing medical supplies, bloody bandages, misc documents, and 1000 lbs of rice, 12 mortar rounds, 12 grenades. Documents and rice evacuated and remainder destroyed.

(15) 121408 A/2-39 vic YS284842, engaged 3 VC with SA fire, resulting in 2 VC KIA (BC), 1 AK-47 and 1 M-79 captured and evacuated to 2-39 CP.

(16) 121435 D/3-5 Cav ARP vic YS291892, engaged 3 VC carrying materials dressed in black pajamas, resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC).

(17) 121640 C/2-39 vic YS279837, evacuated 300 lbs of rice.

(18) 121036 (DELAYED ENTRY) 1st Bde Avn Section reported OH-23 vic YS280835, received unknown rounds SA fire from unknown number of VC. Fire was not returned. There were no hits and speed and altitude unknown.

(19) 130755 LNO 1-11th Arty vic YS272873, UH1D received unknown number of rounds SA from unknown number of VC. Fire was returned; the ship took no hits, speed and altitude unknown.

(20) 131050 B/2-39 vic YS280837, found and evacuated 2 AK-47's, SN 8407455; SN; 8410205.

(21) 131245 A/2-39 vic YS299838, found 1 VC KIA (BC); VC was killed by artillery and was dead approximately 36 hours.

(22) 131255 A/2-39 vic YS272837, destroyed 1 x 155mm WP dud, and evacuated 500 rounds AK-47 ammo, to 2-39 CP.

(23) 131325 S4/2-47 vic YS257863, received 6 rounds RPG fire from south of trace and 18 rounds SA fire from north of trace. Fire was returned with organic weapons. There were no US casualties or damage; VC losses unknown.

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(24) 131335 1st Bde Avn Section vic YS265867, while flying at 60 - 70 knots, at 100 feet, received unknown number rounds SA fire. Aircraft received unknown number of hits which broke bubble and forced to land and FS/PB HAMMER and was extracted.

(25) 131330 A/2-39 vic YS284839, engaged an estimated 1 VC force in regimental size base camp. VC were armed with RPG's and AK's. VC broke contact at 1413H. A/2-39 pursued VC and reestablished contact at 1429H with an estimated VC squad. C/2-39 linked up with A/2-39 and engaged unknown size VC force. VC broke contact at 1600H. There were 15 US WIA, 2 US KIA, and 5 VC KIA (BC).

(26) 131410 Recon/2-47 vic YS274866 to YS271849 destroyed 1 new bunker and 1 tunnel (8'x6'x6') and YS274866, destroyed 10 tunnels; 15 x 1 man fox holes; 5 pair black pyromas and 5 ponchos.

(27) 131448 Recon/2-47 vic YS205849, apprehended 2 male detainees, who were interrogated and released as innocent civilians.

(28) 141157 B/2-39 vic YS287837, while searching bunker complex found 3 VC bodies, also B/2-47 in same area found 11 VC bodies, Results: 4 VC KIA (BC).

(29) 142120 A/2-39 vic YS287837, found bunker complex consisting of 55 bunkers and in complex found the following: 4 R rounds; 2 RPG-2's; 27 Chicago grenades; 4 AK-47 clips; 28 x 81mm mortar rounds; 60 x 60mm mortar rounds; 60 x 60mm mortar fuzes; 67 x 60mm mortar rounds; 5 RPG propellant charges; 1 US TA 312; 1 US clay ore; 1 x 60mm mortar tube SN: 73073 12 with bi-pod; 1000 lbs of rice; 3000 rounds of assorted small arms ammo and 15 lbs of documents.

(30) 150930 FAC report vic YS319839, received SA fire. Fire not returned; speed and altitude unknown; negative hits.

(31) 150935 2-39 report B/2-47 vic YS287838, found 5 VC bodies lying on the ground. There were no unit ID or weapons on the bodies. 5 VC KIA (BC).

(32) 151107 A/2-39 vic YS287838, destroyed 25 bunkers which appeared to be living quarters. Evacuated 6 x 81mm mortar rounds.

(33) 151130 2-39 report B/2-47 destroyed 1 mine which consisted of 10 lbs TNT vic YS289845.

(34) 151143 C/2-39 vic YS287836, found 20 bunkers, 1 RPG-RF, and unknown amount of AK-47 ammo. Also vic YS292842, C/2-39 found 600 lbs of rice and many bloody trails. Bunker area had firing tables for mortars and contained a firing range. The bunkers were destroyed and the remainder evacuated to 2-39 CP. Also in same area found a document which identified the 1st Co, 1st Bn, 274th VC Regt.

(35) 151217 C/2-39 vic YS287838, received unknown rounds SA fire and 1 grenade from unknown number of VC. Fire was returned with or without weapons and VC broke contact at 1220H. There was 1 US KIA (slight); C losses unknown. Captured 100 lbs medical supplies varying from powders to liquids, which were evacuated.

(36) 151334 2-39 report B/2-47 vic YS28935, found 4 VC KIA (BC); there were no weapons or documents on the bodies.

(37) Recon/2-47 vic YS271876, reported R1D received 15 rounds AW fire from 1 VC sniper. Engaged sniper with 50 cal and mortar. Search 1 area without results.

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(38) 151605 C/2-39 vic YS287838, found 3 VC graves containing 3 VC killed by schrapnel. Results: 3 VC KIA (BC).

(39) 151655 2-39 report UH1D vic YS289840, was forced down by VC sniper fire. There were no US casualties and extent of damage unknown.

(40) 160906 Recon/2-47 vic YS270875, had contact with 7 VC. VC broke contact at 1047H and fled northeast. Artillery was fired into the area and a sweep conducted which resulted in 2 VC KIA (BC) and 1 RPG charge captured. There were no US casualties.

(41) 161200 A/2-47 vic YS262865, to YS335875, report convoy received 1 RPG round and SA and AW fire from an unknown number of VC. C/2-47 was sent to the area and upon their arrival the VC broke contact and fled. There was 1 US WIA (slight); VC losses unknown.

(42) 161200 B/2-39 vic YS305820, guard sighted 1 VC. A patrol was dispatched and searched area without results.

(43) 161327 C/2-39 vic YS294839, destroyed 1 bunker and 1 booby trapped Chicom hand grenade.

(44) 161354 A/2-39 vic YS292839, found 11 bags of rice (1100 lbs), 2 RPG rounds, and misc documents. Rice was in an inaccessible location and upon contacting G2, the rice was destroyed and remainder evacuated to 2-39 CP.

(45) 170250 Recon/2-47 vic YS269871, spotted 3 VC approx 45 meters outside of perimeter. Engaged the VC with a claymore and patrol searched area without results.

(46) 170950 C/2-47 APC vic YS360844, hit 5 x 81mm mortar rounds rigged as pressure detonated land mines. Only 1 round detonated and there were no US casualties and no damage. The remaining rounds were destroyed in place.

(47) 171030 A/2-47 vic YS332844, found 12 old bunkers with old and caved in overhead cover. Bunkers were estimated 1 year old not recently used.

(48) 171130 A/2-39 vic YS313838, destroyed 1 bunker (4'x6'x4') with 2' overhead cover. Bunker was still being worked on.

(49) 171304 A/2-47 vic YS328837, found a VC base camp consisting of 10 bunkers (10'x7'), which appeared to be sleeping quarters and protection from artillery; the camp was used within the past week. In one bunker, found several 50 cal rounds without the powder, numerous "C" Ration cans, 3 anti-personnel mines, 500' wire, 1 Chicom claymore, and 100 rounds M-16 ammo. All were destroyed. At coordinates YS325834, found 49 bunkers of which 2 were (25'x15'x15'), 4 kitchens with assorted pots and pans, and 11 expended AK-47 rounds. All were destroyed.

(50) 171530 Recon/2-47 vic YS268882, found a bunker complex consisting of 30 bunkers (10'x10'x6') with 2' overhead cover. Also reported sniper fire from unknown number of VC. Fire was returned with organic weapons and an airstrike was placed on the base camp with the following results: 10 bunkers destroyed, 12 bunkers damaged, and 100 meters of trench destroyed. There 4 US WIA, 1 US KIA, and 1 WIA required dust off which was complete at 1710H.

(51) 172143 2-47 LP vic YS340870, observed 7 to 10 VC carrying what appeared to be a RR. LP engaged two VC with organic weapons. The VC did not return fire. LP withdrew and patrol searched area at daylight without results.

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(52) 181200 C/2-47 vic YS305877, received 5 - 6 rounds of semi-AW fire. Reconned area with 81mm mortar fire and searched area without results.

(53) 181825 C/2-47 vic YS275885, observed 1 VC moving west. Engaged VC with M-79 fire with unknown results.

(54) 190912 A/2-47 vic YS263872, found a possible LP position, used within the past 24 hours. Also found 8 gun positions (2'x3') without overhead cover. Search of the area revealed a well used trail with 2 unidentified markings, one on a tree and the other along the trail.

(55) 191104 C/2-39 vic YS247903, found a well used trail large enough for ox carts, also found fish trap in the area. Element reconned the area by fire with unknown results.

(56) 191227 A/2-39 vic YS260904, received unknown number of SA fire from unknown number of VC. Fire was returned with SA fire and LFT and artillery supported. VC broke contact at 1250H. Results: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA, MEDAVAC complete at 1629H. VC losses unknown.

(57) 191340 Recon/2-39 vic YS248902, exhumed 3 graves without results.

(58) 191402 C/2-47 vic YS282894, destroyed 5 bunkers (7'x7'x5').

(59) 191424 A/2-39 vic YS260904, destroyed 5 old bunkers, (4'x8'x5').

(60) 191912 C/2-47 vic YS286895, received 2 - 3 rounds SA fire from unknown number of VC. Fire was returned and searched area without results.

(61) 200855 C/2-39 vic YS262892, made contact with unknown number of VC. VC broke contact immediately. Results: 3 US WIA; all dusted off. Dust off complete at 1002H. VC losses unknown.

(62) 201356 A/2-39 vic YS264887, made contact with 4 - 7 VC. VC armed with AK-47's and Carbines. Contact broke immediately. Searched area and destroyed 1 hut. There were no US casualties; VC losses unknown.

f. Conclusions: Pre-intelligence reports were substantiated by various contacts with the enemy. The two base camps uncovered attested to the fact that the area was used by the VC as an important focal point for their activity. Most probably the area is a coordinating point for logistical operations and troop movements to other areas (RSSZ and Phuoc Tuy Province). This is verified by the construction of the bunkers. The bunkers generally had no firing ports and were very well protected against artillery or airstrikes. The VC also did not engage superior Allied Forces but rather disperse throughout the area and escaped. The attack on B/2-39 on 12 Jan 68 was probably a rear action to cover the withdrawal of the VC units to the west and north, and then north to the northern part of Long Thanh District, across Hwy 1 and into the Cong Thanh District. The action disrupted the VC operations in the area, and especially their ability to launch offensive operations in that area. The VC need space and time to effectively operate. To interfere with either one is to severely limit their activity. The VC will probably return to this area but periodic Allied Offensive efforts will keep them off balance.

9. Mission: The 1st Bde, in close coordination and cooperation with 1st ATF, attacks at 111200H Jan 68 to locate and destroy elements of the 274th VC Main Force Regiment operating in the eastern portion of AO AKRON.

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10. Concept of Operation:

(a) During the period 11-21 Jan 68, the 1st Brigade conducts Operation AKRON V in four phases.

(b) Maneuver:

(1) Phase I - TF 2-39 and TF 2-47 (M) move by air and motor march during the morning of 11 January 68 to assembly areas vic LD in central AO AKRON. TF 2-47 (M) establishes a screening/blocking position along Engineer trail with team 3-5 Cav in eastern AO AKRON on Engineer trail NLT 111200H January 68.

(2) Phase II - At 111200H, TF's 2-47 (M) and 2-39 conduct reconnaissance in force to the east through the morning of 18 January 1968 to locate and destroy elements of the 274th VC Main Force Regiment and other unidentified VC/NVA elements, to sweep objectives to the east in zone and to drive fleeing VC/NVA elements against blocking positions established by 1st ATF and team 3-5 Cav.

(3) Phase III - During the morning of 18 January, the 2-39 Inf is AML extracted and reinserted at Binh Son Airstrip. The Bn conducts reconnaissance in force through the morning of 21 Jan to the southeast to locate and destroy unidentified VC/NVA elements, working toward a blocking position established along the Engr Trail by TF 2-47 Inf (M).

(4) Phase IV - TF 2-47 (M) moves by motor march to AO FINGERS (northeast corner of AO DENVER) for further reconnaissance in force operations. TF 2-39 is AML extracted from Engr Trail and reinserted in AO FINGERS for further reconnaissance in force operations.

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TF 2-47th Inf (M) continued search and destroy opns in zone with Co A and Co C; released OPCON of Co A 2-39th Inf; and retained OPCON of Co A (-) 4-39th Inf and A/3-5th Cav. Co A 2-47th Inf (M) conducted search and destroy opns east to a RON located vic YS300861 with negative VC contact. Co C conducted search and destroy opns east to a RON position vic YS306857 with negative VC contact. Scout platoon continued to secure FSB HAMMER. A/3-5th Cav assisted by Co A (-) 4-39th Inf continued screening opns in zone with negative VC contact.

13 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf continued search and destroy operations east in zone with three Infantry companies and one mechanized Infantry company. Co A conducted S&D opns east in zone. At 1245H, Co A found 1 VC body vic YS270837; VC killed by Arty and estimated been dead for 36 hours. At 1300H, Co A found 500 rounds of AK-47 rifle ammo. vic YS272837. At 1350H, Co A engaged an estimated 15 man VC force armed with AK-47's and RPG's; contact was broken at 1413H. Co A pursued the VC and regained contact at 1429H with an estimated VC squad resulting in 16 US WIA and 1 US KIA; contact was broken at 1605H. Co B 2-39th Inf assisted Co B 2-47th (M) Inf in the destruction of the base camp discovered on 12 Jan 68, then moved east to reinforce Co A vic YS284839. Co C conducted S&D opn east in zone making contact with an unknown size VC force vic YS284839 at 1410H resulting in 1 US WIA and 0 US KIA. Co B 2-47th Inf (M) destroyed the VC base camp discovered on 12 Jan 68; conducted S&D opns east; and reinforces Co A vic YS4839. At 1446H, Co B 2-47th Inf (M) made contact with an unknown size VC force vic YS284839 resulting in 2 US WIA and 1 US KIA. At 1625H, Co A, Co B, Co C and Co B 2-47th Inf (M) swept through the area of contact, discovering 5 VC KIA (body count) and an estimated bn size VC base camp; the elements secured the VC base camp; and RON vic YS284839. Co E continued to secure FSB NAILS. *(NOTE: DELAYED ENTRY) B Co 2-39th Inf found two rifles on 12 Jan 68 when they swept vic YS282838; weapons had been lost during VC attack. TF 2-47th Inf (M) continued S&D opns in zone with Co A and Co C; retained OPCON of Co A (-) 4-39th Inf and troop A 3-5th Cav. Co A 2-47th Inf (M) conducted S&D opns east in zone. At 0724H Co A received 1 round from an unknown size VC force vic YS286884 resulting in one US slightly wounded and negative damage to US equipment. Co A RON vic YS306861. Co B 2-47th Inf (M) remained OPCON to TF 2-39th Inf. Co C conducted S&D opns east in zone and returned to RON vic YS306861 with negative VC contact. A troop 3-5th Cav assisted by Co A (-) 4-39th Inf continued screening opns in zone with negative results. Recon Flat continued to secure TF 2-47th Inf (M) CP/FSB HAMMER and conducted local patrolling. At 1316H, Recon Flat discovered VC position vic YS274866 and YS271849. There were ten protective underground positions, 8'x6'x6' long; 15 each one man spider holes; there were fresh foot prints in the area. In the area, Recon Platoon captured 5 pair of VC black pajama type uniforms and 5 VC ponchos. At 1448H Recon Flat detained two RVN nationals vic YS273866; the detainees were interrogated and released. At 0755H, a UH1D, while landing at FSB HAMMER, received small arms fire and automatic weapons fire vic YS272823; there were negative US casualties and negative US equipment damage. At 1330H, an OH-23 received several rounds small arms fire southwest of FSB HAMMER, resulting in a damaged cockpit. At 1255H, TF 2-47th Inf (M) resupply convoy received 6 rounds of RPG fire and an estimated 18 rounds of small arms fire vic YS257-863. There were negative US casualties and negative US equipment damage.

14 Jan: TF 2-39th Infantry continued to exploit the area of contact on 13 January by searching and destroying within the VC base camp area located vic YS287837. The VC base camp area was linear in design and contained 55 protective bunkers connected by a defensive type trench system. The bunkers were constructed eight feet long, six feet wide, and five feet deep with an average of two and one half feet of overhead cover. The bunkers were estimated to have been built for six months, however, there

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11. EXECUTION:

11 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf conducted airmobile assaults on LZ SCREW-DRIVER vic YS223834 with A Company and B Company commencing 110658H. BN HQ, Co E, A Btry 1-11th Arty, and Co B 2-47th Inf (M) conducted motor march from Camp Martin Cox along RVN Route #15 to FSB BROWN vic YS225804 displacing to and closing FSB NAILS vic YS275804 at 1400H. Co A, upon securing LZ SCREWDRIVER, conducted S&D opns, north and became OPCON to 2-47th Inf (M). Co B, upon insertion at LZ SCREWDRIVER, conducted S&D opns east at 1209H. Co B engaged 12 VC at YS280837 with SA and AW fire; there were 1 US KIA (dusted off at 1350H) and negative VC casualties. Co B, at 1437H, discovered and destroyed one VC bunker 1 1/2 meters deep x 2 meters long x 1 meter wide located vic YS178836. Co B, at 2133H vic YS282838, came under mortar attack; 2210H received ground attack from all directions with heaviest attack coming from NE; mortar attack also continuing; 2330H elements report VC massing fires from NE. US casualties and VC casualties unknown as of 2330H. Co B supported by LFT, Arty and USAF Dragon Ships. Co B engaged an estimated force of 6 VC at 1605H located vic YS238240; there were two US KIA (one dusted off at 1731H) and negative VC casualties. Co C, upon securing LZ SAW, conducted S&D opns northeast with negative contact. Co E and Co B 2-47th Inf (M) secured FSB NAILS; upon entering FSB NAILS at 1105H, the element received one round of RPG fire from an unknown size VC force. The VC were engaged with SA and AW fire; there were negative US or VC casualties. Co B 2-47th Inf (M), at 1300H, found and destroyed one VC mine consisting of 5 each 82mm HE mortar rounds vic YS297817. TF 2-47th Inf (M) conducted motor march from Camp Martin Cox along RVN Route #15 to FSB GREEN vic YS-200835 commencing 110516H with BN HQ, Co A (-), Co C and B Battery 1-11th Arty. Upon securing FSB GREEN, the Bn conducted S&D opn east to FSB HAMMER located vic YS267872. Co A discovered and destroyed 1 mine with dual Detonation System (command & pressure) at 0855H vic YS240854. Co A also detonated a mine consisting of 4 each 82mm HE rnds by running over it with a M113 APC at 0905H vic YS280846; there were negative US casualties and negative damage to the APC. Co B OPCON to TF 2-39th Inf. Co C at 1250H, found and destroyed a VC mine consisting of 3 each 81mm HE mortar rounds vic YS297817, secured and patrolled vic FSB HAMMER. Co A (-) 4-39th Inf conducted an airmobile assault into LZ PLIERS vic YS341871 and became OPCON to A/3-5th Cav. A/3-5th Cav conducted motor march from Xuan Loc to vic LZ PLIERS; secured LZ PLIERS; assumed OPCON Co A (-) 4-39th Inf; screened in zone and became OPCON to TF 2-47th Inf (M). Scout Platoon secured 2-47th Inf HQ with negative VC contact.

12 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf continued search and destroy operations in zone with Co B and Co C; regained OPCON of Co A 2-39th Inf from TF 2-47th Inf (M); conducted an airmobile assault into LZ SCREWDRIVER (YS223834) with Co B 2-47th Inf (M); and secured FSB NAIL with Co E. Co A 2-39th Inf conducted search and destroy opn south from their RON position commencing 0730H to link up with Co B 2-39th Inf at YS282838. At 1425H, Co A engaged three VC vic YS284842 resulting in negative US casualties and two VC KIA (body count), one AK-47 rifle and one M79 grenade launcher. Co B 2-39th Inf (NOTE: Continued from 1st Bde SITREP Period 110001H-112400H Jan 68) reported that VC had broken contact at 0010H. At 0248H, VC commenced second attack against Co B, breaking contact at 0610H. Co B sustained 46 US KIA (31 dusted off) and negative US KIA. There were negative VC casualties. Co C conducted search and destroy opns north to link up with Co B 2-39th Inf vic YS282838. At 1645H, Co C found 800 lbs of rice vic YS279837. Co B 2-47th Inf (M) conducted airmobile assault on LZ SCREWDRIVER and conducted search and destroy operations east to link up with Co B 2-39th Inf. At 0900H Co B discovered a VC base camp with 55 bunkers vic YS279837 and captured 12 mortar rounds, 12 hand grenades, and 1000 lbs of rice. Aero Scts D/3-5th Cav, while supporting TF 2-39th Inf engaged 3 VC at 1435H vic YS291871 resulting in 1 VC KIA (BG).

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was evidence of recent repair and construction. During the search of the base camp area there was a total of 14 VC KIA found in graves and 2 VC KIA found hanging in trees. The following are items of VC equipment found in the base camp: one combat servicable 60mm mortar, 3,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, 3,200 lbs of rice, 4 lbs of salt, 5 lbs dried shrimp, 5 gal soy-bean oil, 1 package of medicine, 5 lbs of documents, 4 RPG rounds, 2 RPG launchers, 25 Chicom grenades, 4 AK-47 magazines, 28 US 81mm mortar rounds, 67 60mm mortar fuses, 5 RPG propellant charges, 1 TA312 telephone, 1 US type claymore mine, and 3 pick mallets. All elements reported finding evidence of a hasty withdrawal of the VC forces. There were numerous articles of bloody clothing found in the base camp area and several improvised stretchers containing blood stains. A thorough debriefing of unit commanders and element leaders determined through eye witness reports that a minimum of 31 VC were killed or wounded during the contact within the VC base camp area. Companies A, B, and C 2-39th Inf and Co B 2-47th Inf (M) remained over night vic YS-289840. Co E continued to secure TF 2-39th Inf CP/FSB NAILS. TF 2-39th Inf was supported with one airstrike vic YS297836 resulting in 4 VC bunkers destroyed, 20 meters of trench destroyed, and 10 VC bunkers damaged. Resupply of the elements operating within the VC base camp area was accomplished by the 1st Bde Aviation section utilizing two OH-23 helicopters. Due to the dense jungle area and time factor only an LZ large enough to land an OH-23 could be cleared. The 1st Bde Aviation Section flew 154 sorties in 14 hours carrying 79 passengers and 33,300 lbs of equipment and supplies. The OH-23 carried in supplies and passengers and back-hauled captured VC equipment and supplies. TF 2-47th Inf (M) conducted search and destroy operations southwest along the ridge line (vic YS306857 to vic YS295845). Co A swept south to vic YS300847 with negative VC contact. A troop 3-5th Cav swept southwest to vic YS307850 receiving sniper fire at 1145H from an unknown size VC force vic YS378867; the element returned fire resulting in negative US casualties and unknown VC casualties. Co A (-) 4-39th Inf continued to maintain screening/blocking positions along the Engr Trail on the northern boundary of the AO. At 1145H an element of A troop escorting the AVIS to a crossing site vic YS346877 received an RPG, small arms and automatic weapons fire; the element returned fire resulting in two US WIA (2 dusted off) and one M113 destroyed. VC casualties were unknown. At 1525H, A troop reported finding a partially destroyed and unservicable Mauser Rifle Model 92 vic YS-327877. Recon Platoon 2-47th Inf (M) continued to secure TF 2-47th CP/FSB HAMMER, provided security for resupply convoy, and supported by Engr squad, returned and destroyed 10 bunkers discovered on 13 Jan, vic YS271849.

15 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf continued Opn AKRON V. The TF continued to explore and destroy the large bunker complex discovered vic YS287837 and conducted search and destroy ops in zone. Co A and Co C continued to search and destroy vic of the VC base camp area. There were an additional 45 bunkers found in the area for an accumulative total of 100 bunkers found and searched in the base camp area. The following VC equipment and supplies were discovered: 1 RPG launcher, 2 hand grenades, 6 81mm mortar rounds, 339 rounds of AK-47 small arms, 600 lbs of rice, 100 lbs of medical supplies, 2 lbs of documents. There were also several blood trails and 5 VC KIA (body count) were found. The VC had been killed by small arms fire and were discovered unburied. At 1210H, Co C received small arms fire from an unknown size VC force; fire was returned and the VC broke contact by throwing a hand grenade resulting in one US slightly wounded and one VC KIA (body count). At 1546H, Co C discovered 3 graves vic YS301848 containing 3 VC killed by schrapnel. One VC appeared killed within last 12 hours; other bodies appeared two weeks old. At 1605H, the fourth platoon of Co C engaged one VC near the base camp area with small arms fire, resulting in negative US casualties and unknown VC casualties. Co B 2-47th Inf (M) and Co B 2-39th Inf conducted southwest toward FSB NAILS. At 1055H, Co B 2-47th Inf (M) discovered and destroyed one VC improvised mine consisting of two 105mm HE rounds and two 4.2 HE mortar rounds. At 1334H, Co B 2-47th Inf (M) found four VC bodies stripped of equipment near vic YS292832. The VC had been KIA

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by artillery. TF 2-39th Inf was supported by four preplanned airstrikes; during one airstrike at 0930H vic YS290850, the fighters received ground fire from an unknown size VC force, resulting in negative US casualties and unknown VC casualties. At 1655H, a UH1D (Jayhawk 764) received small arms fire and force landed vic YS284840 resulting in negative US casualties. The crew was extracted at 1727H. Commencing at 1820H, an element from Co B 2-39th Inf was airmobiled from FSB NAILS to vic of downed UH1D to provide security. The UH1D was extracted by a CH-47 at 1845H. Co B commenced airmobile extraction at 1908H and the last sortie landed at FSB NAILS at 1533H. The extraction mission was accomplished without incident. TF 2-37th Inf (M) continued search and destroy operations east in zone. Co C and Co A 2-47th Inf (M) conducted S&D ops east to vic YS335870. At 1050H, Co A discovered 3 VC tunnels vic YS334871; the tunnels were caved in and there was negative signs of recent VC activity. Co B 2-47th Inf (M) remained OFCON to TF 2-39th Inf. At 0859H, Co A (-) 4-39th Inf commenced airmobile extraction from PZ FLIERS YS332874; at 0959H the last sortie departed PZ FLIERS; and Co A (-) returned to the control of TF 4-39th Inf (OPN RILEY) at Camp Martin Cox. Troop A 3-5th Cav was released OFCON from TF 2-47th Inf (M) at 1300H and conducted motor march to Camp Blackhorse. TF 2-47th Inf (M) reported that a UH1D received 15 rounds small arms fire while landing at FSB HAMMER; fire was returned with 50 cal machine gun and mortar fire. There were negative US casualties or equipment damage. Recon Platoon 2-47th Inf (M) sighted 1 VC at 1400H vic YS268873. The VC was pursued for several hundred meters with negative results.

16 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf completed searching the bunker complex and continued search and destroy operations in zone. Co A assisted by Co C completed the search of the bunker area and swept east from the bunker complex commencing at 1215H. Co A discovered a cache of 1,100 lbs of rice, two RFG rounds and one lb of documents at 1354H vic YS292839. It was necessary to destroy the rice cache because the thick tripple canopy jungle prevented cutting of a LZ and the area to which the rice would have to be carried for evacuation would have prevented the element from accomplishing a thorough sweep of their objective area. Co B 2-39th Inf conducted a sweep north of FSB NAILS and returned to remain over night. Co C assisted Co A in the complete search of the base camp area and then swept east to remain over night with Co A vic YS303835. Co C reported finding one VC booby trapped chicom grenade and one VC bunker at 1317H vic YS293839. The bunker and grenade were destroyed. Co B 2-47th Inf (M) (OFCON to TF 2-39) conducted S&D operations northeast from FSB NAILS to vic YS317830 and returned to FSB NAILS to remain over night. At 1155H an outpost from Co B spotted 2 VC and engaged them with small arms fire vic YS305820. The outpost pursued the VC for several hundred meters resulting in negative US casualties and VC casualties unknown. Co E continued to secure FSB NAILS. TF 2-47th Inf (M) conducted S&D ops to the south with Co A and Co C to vic of LZ FILE YS287810. Co A commenced its sweeping operation south at 0902H. At 1128H, vic YS335875, Co A was unsuccessfully attacked by a VC ambush. The ambush was initiated by the VC firing an RFG at the rear of the lead M113 APC. The RFG missed the M113, exploded and caused only minor dents and scratches to the rear of the M113. Fire was returned by Co A and Co C moved from vic LZ FLIERS to reinforce Co A. Enroute Co C also received RFG and small arms fire. Co C arrived at the ambush site at 1131H, engaging the VC with small arms, automatic weapons and 50 cal machine gun fire causing the VC to break contact and flee to the west. The results of the contact were 2 US slightly wounded (treated by medic and released) and VC casualties were unknown. At 1407H, Co A found and destroyed 3 105mm Arty rounds. At 1125, TF 2-47th Inf (M) resupply convoy enroute to FSB HAMMER and escorted by Recon platoon (-), received small arms fire vic YS262865; fire was returned and the VC broke contact. There were negative US casualties; VC casualties were unknown. At 1045H, a patrol from Recon platoon made contact with 7 VC, engaging them with small arms fire vic YS270875. The VC broke contact and fled to the northeast. Artillery was fired into the area and at 1125H, Recon platoon (-) joined the patrol with combat tracker teams and

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pursued the VC. Debriefing of the patrol concluded that there were two VC seen hit by small arms fire, however, a search of the area revealed only blood trails.

17 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf continued to conduct search and destroy operations east in zone. Co A followed by Co C (RRF) conducted a sweep east from vic YS303835 to clear objective vic YS314836. At 1145H, Co A found and destroyed one bunker vic YS313833 and at 1327H vic YS315837 destroyed 3 bunkers. Co A and Co C remained over night vic YS312822. Co B conducted search and destroy operations northeast of FSB NAILS to vic YS294827 and returned to FSB NAILS with negative VC contact and remained over night. Co E continued to provide security for FSB NAILS. Co B 2-47th Inf (M) (OPCON to TF 2-39th Inf) conducted search and destroy operations northeast to vic YS294827 and returned to FSB NAILS with negative VC contact and remained over night. TF 2-47th Inf (M) continued to conduct search and destroy operations west and southwest in zone. Co A and Co C conducted search and destroy ops southwest from their night location to vic YS325884 at 0955H. Co C's point M113 hit an improvised 81mm mortar HE pressure detonated mine vic YS338845. There were negative casualties or equipment damage. At 1020H Co A found and destroyed three VC bunkers vic YS332844. At 1145H, Co A found and destroyed a VC base camp containing 10 bunkers vic YS328837. Also found in the VC base camp were expended 50 cal brass, C-ration cans, three anti-personnel mines, a Chicom claymore mine, and 100 rounds of 5.56 M16 small arms ammo. At 1430H, Co C discovered a VC base camp containing 49 bunkers vic YS325834, ten were new and the others old and unserviceable. The ten new bunkers were destroyed. The following equipment and supplies were found in the base camp area: 3 kitchens with pots and pans; 1 expended round of AK-47 ammo and 10 rounds of unexpended AK-47 small arms ammo. At 1530H a patrol from Recon platoon made contact with an unknown size VC force in a VC base camp located vic YS268882. In the ensuing fire fight the patrol sustained one KIA, one WIA dusted off, and three WIA with minor wounds (treated and returned to duty). Artillery fire and an immediate air strike were placed on the base camp resulting in 10 bunkers destroyed, 12 bunkers damaged and two hundred meters of trench destroyed.

18 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf initiated Phase III of Opn AKRON V by conducting an airmobile assault on the BINH SON air strip (YS429916) and conducted search and destroy ops south in zone. Co A spear-headed the assault, lifting off from LZ vic YS312822 at 0804H, followed by Co B 2-39th Inf and Co C. Co C completed the airmobile assault at 1140H. Upon securing the LZ, Co A, Co B and Co C with Recon platoon attached swept south in zone and established a three company night location vic YS247907. Co B, 2-47th Inf (M) secured the PZ for Co A, Co B and Co C; provided security for the motor movement of TF 2-39th Inf (-) from FSB NAILS to FSB GREY (YS212937). Co B was returned to the control of TF 2-47th Inf (M) at 1340H. Upon being released from OPCON TF 2-39th Inf, Co B established a night location at LONG THANH (YS138921) and provided one platoon security force for the 8 inch Arty Battery located vic YS137918. Co B assumed the mission of rapid reaction force for the defense of LONG THANH RF/FF outpost. TF 2-47th Inf (M) initiated phase III OPN AKRON V establishing blocking positions along the Engineer Trail from vic YS260860 to YS290888. Co A and Co C departed their night location at 0817H. Co A established blocking positions west of FSB HAMMER, screened and conducted roadrunner ops in zone. Co C established blocking positions along the Engineer trail vic YS290890 west to vic YS282-885. At 1200H, Co C reported receiving 5 to 6 rounds of semi-automatic small arms fire from a sniper vic YS290890. Co C returned fire with small arms, automatic weapons and 81mm mortar. There were negative US casualties and VC casualties were unknown. At 1825H, Co C engaged one VC vic YS275885, with M79 and small arms fire resulting in negative US casualties; VC casualties were unknown. Recon platoon, TF 2-47th Inf (M) conducted local patrols north of FSB HAMMER and provided convoy security between Hwy 15 and FSB HAMMER. Co A and Co C remained overnight in their blocking positions. At 1305H, vic FSB HAMMER an OH-23 received 2 rounds of small arms fire. There were negative equipment damage or casualties.

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19 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf continued OPN AKRON V, Phase III conducting search and destroy ops south in zone with Co A, Co B and Co C with Recon platoon attached. At 1227H, Co C made contact with an estimated 4-5 VC vic YS260904. Co A engaged the VC with small arms, automatic weapons, and was supported by artillery. There was one KIA and one US WIA (MEDEVAC); VC casualties were unknown. At 1320H, Co A found and destroyed five VC bunkers vic YS260904. Co C found and destroyed ten bunkers vic YS248902. Co C found and destroyed ten bunkers vic YS248902, and discovered the following items of equipment: 1 pair of US Army boots, small arms ammo, medical supplies, women's clothing and a small amount of documents. TF 2-39th Inf Headquarters and CP remained at FSB GREY (BINH SON). TF 2-47th Inf (M) continued Phase III, OPN AKRON V blocking in zone with Co A and Co C, maintained Co B at Long Thanh (YS138918) as a rapid reaction force to assist in the defense of RF/FF outposts vic Long Thanh; Recon platoon patrolled locally vic FSB HAMMER, and provided roadrunners and convoy security between RVN route 15 and FSB HAMMER. At 0912H, Co A found and destroyed a VC position containing 8 bunkers without overhead cover. Co C found and destroyed 5 bunkers vic YS282894 at 1442H.

20 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf continued OPN AKRON V, Phase III conducting search and destroy ops south in zone with Companies A, B & C. At 0855H, Co A engaged an unknown size VC force with small arms and automatic weapons fire vic YS262892. Co A was supported by artillery fire and an airstrike. There were two US WIA and VC casualties were unknown. Co C received automatic weapons fire (AK-47) and carbine fire at 1356H from an estimated force of seven VC. Co C returned fire immediately with small arms and automatic weapons fire causing the VC to flee the area, artillery was placed to block the escape route of the VC, however a sweep of the area revealed only blood trails and one VC structure which Co C destroyed. TF 2-39th Inf completed their sweep at 1658H and moved through TF 2-47th Inf (M) blocking positions and remained overnight at vic YS277890. TF 2-47th Inf (M) continued to screen and block in zone with Co A and Recon Platoon. Co B remained at Long Thanh (YS138918) providing a rapid reaction force for the defense of RF/FF outposts in the vic of Long Thanh. Co B released one platoon to OPCON 199th Light Infantry Brigade at 1600H. Co C was released OPCON to TF 4-39th Inf at 1005H.

21 Jan: TF 2-39th Inf completed OPN AKRON V with the airmobile extraction from AO AKRON. Co A, Co B and Co C were extracted from PZ vic YS277890 utilizing one airmobile helicopter company. The extraction commenced at 0816H and terminated at 1048H. Bn Hq was extracted from FSB GREY commencing at 1110H using CH-47 helicopters and was completed at 1250H. Co E was extracted from a PZ vic YS277890 commencing at 1300H utilizing CH-47 helicopters and terminating at 1505H. TF 2-47th Inf (M) completed OPN AKRON V conducting a motorized withdrawal from AO AKRON with the Bn Hq and Co A commencing at 0845H. Recon platoon secured the PZ for TF 2-39th Inf and withdrew upon the completed extraction. The last element of TF 2-47th Inf (M) cleared AO AKRON at 1400H.

12. RESULTS:

a. Enemy Losses

(1) Enemy Personnel Losses:	VC KIA (BC)	57
	VC POW	0
	Chieu Hoi	0
	Detainees	0

(2) Equipment Captured:

a. Weapons: 4 AK-47s; 1 M-79; 1 60mm mortar; 4 RPG Rocket Launchers; 2 M-16s.

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(b) Ammunition: Mortar rounds: 119; Small Arms ammo: 4:00;
Mines: 1; HPG-2 rounds: 14; Claymores: 1.

(c) Foodstuffs: Rice: 12,950; Dried Shrimp: 25 lbs; Fish: 5
lbs; Candy: 10 lbs; Rock Sugar: 15 lbs.

(d) Medical Supplies: 121 lbs

(e) Communications: 1 TA 312

(f) Documents: 49 lbs; 1 Map (hand Drawn)

(g) Clothing: 50 lbs

(3) Items Destroyed: 198 bunkers and 15 mortar rounds.

b. Friendly Losses

(1) Personnel:

(a) KIA 5

(b) WIA 67

(c) NB 4

(2) Equipment: None

13. Administration

a. The administration planning of Operation AKRON III proved to be sound, and the logistical combat service support was effective throughout the period of operation. The logistical support, Class I - IV was supplied directly from distribution points of 9th S&T Bn, Bearcat (XT151009). Class V was distributed direct from 3rd Ord Bn, Long Binh, ASP. Land Loc was HWY QL15 and 320. Aerial resupply by UH1D and CH-47 aircrafts was utilized for tactical ground units inaccessible by existing road nets.

b. Supply

(1) Class I point, 9th S&T Bn (Bearcat) issued during period of operation:

<u>"A" Ration</u>	<u>"B" Ration</u>	<u>"C" Ration</u>	<u>Sundry Packs</u>
4146	0	34,796	82
<u>LRRP Rations</u>	<u>Potable Ice (lb)</u>	<u>Sterilized Milk (cases)</u>	
197	364,000	490	

Units remained on a ration cycle C-C-C for most of the operation without noted discrepancies.

(2) Class II and IV:

(a) Class II requisitions were handled by the rear detachments who maintained radio communications with forward locations.

(b) All other items of an urgent nature were flown directly to requesting unit on as needed basis by rear detachment personnel.

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(c) Class IV barrier material issued during period of operation included 444 Engineer stakes, 32,000 snadbags, and 6 bundles of concertina barbwire.

(3) Class III and IIIA

(a) Class III dispensing point, Bearcat Base Camp issued during period:

MOGAS	DEISEL	AVGAS	JP-4	OIL/LUBRICATION
6868 gal	8044 gal	1717	0	805 gals, 401 lbs

(b) Class III was delivered forward, by organic unit 1200 gal tankers, 500 gallon collapsible bladders, 55 gallon fuel cans.

(4) Class V.

(a) Expenditure of class V by all units, remained within the limit of the 9th Division ASR.

(b) No shortage of any type ammunition occurred during the period of operation.

(c) Ammunition expenditures by type and quantities during the period of operations are as follows.

TYPE	TOTAL ROUNDS EXPENDED
5.56mm Ball/Tracers	174,076
7.62mm Ball/Tracers	1,820
7.62mm Link	64,000
40mmGL,HE	4,354
40mm Cannister	134
45 Cal Ball	2,990
90mm HE RR	4
81mm HE	1,068
81mm Ill.	63
4.2 HE	1,334
4.2 Ill.	487
4.2 WP	130
4.2 CS Experimental	90
105 HE	8,305
105 Ill.	211
105 WP	539
Pyrotechnics (All types)	987
Fragmentary Grenades	356
WP Grenades	32
C4	1,700 lbs
Dynamite	750 lbs
Crater Chg.	40 lbs
Shapes Chg.	40 lbs
Non Electric Caps	300 each
Time Fuse	1,000 feet
Det. Cord	10,000 feet
Time Fuze Igniter	300 each

c. Maintenance

(1) Company C, 709th Maint Bn and Hq & A Co 709th Maint Bn received the following job orders in direct support of all battalions and separate companies.

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Wheel	Track	Signal	Small Arms	Chemical	Fuz/Elect.	Instrument
18	10	58	0	6	5	3

(2) Recovery operations performed upon request of supported units totaled none.

d. Medical Evacuation and Hospitalization

(1) Patient categories handled by Co B 9th Med Bn were as follows:

DRHA	IRHA	NBE	DIS	EVAC	DUSTOFF
10	2	4	0	0	6

(2) Dustoff procedures and medical evacuation of slightly wounded personnel was deemed fully adequate.

e. Transportation

(1) Army Aviation Helicopters were utilized to air lift class of supply from Bearcat to forward areas as follows:

	OH23	UH1D	CH47
Certies	439	142	23
Weight	50,000 lbs	186,700 lbs	156,000 lbs

f. Services

(1) Unit water trailers were slung airlifted and extracted on a daily basis by CH47.

(2) Metal and plastic 5 gallon containers were utilized during the operation.

(3) Non-potable water sources in forward areas were purified on an individual basis by the use of iodine/chlorine tablets.

g. Graves Registration: GR support was provided by the 9th S&T Battalion located at Bearcat.

14. Civic Actions/Psychological Operations: There were no civic action projects conducted that were directly related to Operation AKRON V. During Operation AKRON V, the PSYOP Team, through coordination with S-2 and S-3, flew both loudspeaker and leaflet missions in support of the operation. A first was introduced during the operation. This was the use of 105 artillery shells filled with leaflets. There was a total of 667,600 leaflets disseminated during the operation. Of these, 24,000 were dispersed by means of the 105mm artillery rounds. The themes of the leaflets were: Chieu Hoi Mixture, Chieu Hoi Questions, Scare and Power, Allied Power, Safe Conduct Passes and assorted TET leaflets. There were also two special leaflets developed and printed especially for use against the 274th VC Regiment. The loudspeaker unit of the U-10 aircraft was utilized for a total time of four (4) hours and five minutes. The themes of the tapes were taken from the JUSPAO produced stock. These themes fitted well with the situations encountered. However, the team produced one tape in response to intelligence reports of a resupply effort through the village of Ba Ky. The greatest discovery of the operation, in a PSYOP point of view, was the use of 105mm artillery shells. This gives the timely delivery of propaganda on a particular unit, while they are still in contact with our forces. The only drawback to the shells is that they are prepacked with standard Chieu Hoi Leaflets and Safe Conduct Passes. Special situations still require the use of an aircraft. In a number of instances

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the aerial dissemination immediately preceded either an air strike or an artillery barrage. Although not planned, the psychological advantages are tremendous. The leaflets are no sooner on the ground than the attack is upon them. This brings a real sense of credibility to all our propaganda.

15. Commander's Evaluation: Operation AKRON V succeeded in locating and destroying elements of the 274th VC Main Force Regiment as prescribed in the original mission. The absence of the FIRST BRIGADE in AO RILEY, and specifically AO AKRON, during the Operation SANTA FE allowed the VC/NVA elements to improve fortifications, stockpile supplies and move about freely. Troop D, 3-5th Cav performed admirably in their overwatch mission (Operation AKRON IV) and gathered valuable intelligence, but they did not possess the ground troops to curtail VC movements and operations. It was evident from pre-operational intelligence that AO AKRON had been used as a refuge and way station on a major north-south supply route. This route lead from the RUNG SAT Special Zone northeast across Hwy 15 through the HAT DICH area and north across Hwy 1 into War Zone D and it was active during November and December. Movements were also traced east from the HAT DICH area to the MAY TAO Secret Zone. The airmobile and ground assaults of the 2-39th Inf and the 2-47th Inf (M) respectively, and the sweep east toward the 1st ATF/3-5th Cav block, trapped several elements of the 274th Regt. This was verified by the moderately heavy contacts and enemy delaying actions encountered in base camp locations. The contacts succeeded in fragmenting the VC/NVA elements, eliminating several of their coveted base locations, and sharply deterred their plans. The major contributing factors that allowed 1st Brigade elements to close with the enemy were the surprise achieved by the insertion on LZ SCREWDRIVER of an Infantry battalion without preparatory fires and the deliberate late positioning of forces, especially artillery. Should this operation or one of similar characteristics be conducted again a few adjustments could be warranted. With the same number of maneuver elements available it might be advisable to sweep and block a smaller area. Greater concentration would undoubtedly increase the degree of success achieved on this type of operation. Combining Infantry, both US and Australian, Armored Cavalry and Mechanized Infantry, with cross attachments wherever practical, proved to be tactically effective and feasible. Rapport with the 1st ATF was reinforced by close cooperation and coordination during both planning and execution phases. Operation AKRON V contributed much to the further welding of FVMAF. The forces participating in Operation AKRON V did much to accelerate the neutralization of the HAT DICH area as a VC haven.

Acknowledge:

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Distribution:

- 15 - HQ 1st Bde
- 30 - 19th Mil+ Hist Det
- 1 - 9th Div G3 (R&E)
- 2 - 2-39th Inf
- 2 - 4-39th Inf
- 2 - 2-47th Inf (M)
- 2 - 3-5th Cav
- 2 - 1-11th Arty
- 5 - 1st ATF

OFFICIAL:

DAY

S-3

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UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Confidential

2b. GROUP

4

3. REPORT TITLE

Combat After Action Report - Operation AKRON V, 1st Bde, 9th Infantry Division (U)

4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations. 11-21 Jan 1968

5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)

CO, 1st Bde, 9th Infantry Division

6. REPORT DATE

5 February 1968

7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES

21

7b. NO. OF REFS

8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.

b. PROJECT NO.

N/A

c.

d.

9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

68X009

9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)

10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

N/A

12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

13. ABSTRACT

21

DD FORM 1 NOV 55 1473

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification